May 12, 2021

County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission Chairman David Bame redistricting@sdcounty.ca.gov

Re: Voting Rights Act Compliance - Selection of demographic consultants

Dear Redistricting Commissioners:

In the past, politicians drew the County's district lines, flouting the Voting Rights Act, and concocting blatant gerrymanders for their own political benefit, not the public's.

We trust this first-ever Independent Redistricting Commission will change that and do redistricting right.

But we are troubled that the Commission's RFP for demographic consultants does not require firms to disclose whether their previously produced maps were challenged, or even overturned, for violating the Voting Rights Act and limiting representation for people of color.

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission wisely requires disclosure of past legal challenges. Our Commission should demand the same transparency as you interview potential consultants, a process we urge you to hold in public.

The firm chosen to draw the lines shouldn't have a pattern of crossing the line on voting rights.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continuing to participate in this historic Independent Redistricting for San Diego County.



**Empowerment** 

















